

Lightning Strikes Enemy Sanctuary



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Cua Lon River Open For Business

SAIGON (USN) — Through the joint efforts of the Vietnamese and American Navies, Vietnamese woodcutters are making large quantities of cay duoc wood from the Mekong Delta's Cua Lon River region of the Ca Mau Peninsula.

This natural forest area, located on the Cua Lon River near Kinh Ngang and Rach Cai Nhap, was once a VC stronghold, but since early July the area has been opened through the com-

bined efforts of the two Naval forces.

When the jointly manned SEAFLOAT was established in the area, the threat of VC tax extortionists was sharply reduced and the commercial river traffic increased significantly as a result of their presence.

With the many canals and waterways now relatively secure, the woodcutters are marketing their wares in every major city in the Delta.

But there is more than cay duoc wood attracting woodcutters and their families to the Cua Lon. Vietnamese and U.S. Navy men at SEAFLOAT are available to assist civilians in the area with food, water, and a repair service for sampan motors.

Free medical service is also available. A VNN hospital ship complete with doctor, dentist and hospital corpsman, treat as many as 100 patients a day at

its anchorage near Rach Cai Nhap.

Other industries are now beginning to emerge along the Cua Lon, as many woodcutters use the brick kilns in the area to make charcoal. Fishing proves to be profitable as the rivers and canals are filled with crab, catfish and carp.

But more of all, the Cua Lon River area offers new security to civilians who want to work in peace.

TAY NINH (USA) — Tropic Lightningmen of the 25th Infantry Division are rapidly convincing the enemy that there is little sanctuary in the dense underbrush and rugged slopes of the Nui Ba Den mountain.

Sixty enemy soldiers were killed during recent actions involving elements of the 4th Battalion (Mechanized), 23rd Infantry and the 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor.

Action started for the Tomahawks of Company C, 4th Battalion during a combined reconnaissance-in-force mission with a Vietnamese Regional Forces company, after intelligence reports indicated that a company-sized Viet Cong element had been spotted near the base of the mountain.

The previous day, a suspected VC paymaster had been detained in this same vicinity and there was good reason to believe that Charlie was not far away.

While establishing a defensive position, Company C and the RF company began receiving 82mm mortar rounds from the mountain and immediately responded with mortars, artillery and automatic weapons fire.

The first platoon moved out on foot and hadn't gone more than a hundred meters into the banana grove at the base of the mountain when it received heavy rocket-propelled grenade and small arms fire. The platoon dispersed, but later regrouped and moved deeper into the enemy position.

Sporadic fire continued throughout the afternoon, and by dusk, the Tomahawks had counted 30 enemy dead.

Elsewhere, the 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor reconnaissance platoons of Headquarters Company were conducting a ground reconnaissance mission on the eastern side of the Black Virgin Mountain.

As they approached the mountain, they observed several enemy running from a nearby banana grove into a large cave near the base.

The company immediately deployed their tracked vehicles and directed their fire onto the enemy's position. The ground trembled and the mountainside reverberated as the metal monsters unleashed their lethal barrage of 90mm cannon and .50 caliber machine gun fire.

The company's mortar tracks were then moved into position directly behind the firing tanks and began to pound the enemy (Continued on Back Page)

ARVN Forces Kill 32

QUAN LOI (USA) — Led by a wounded commander, a company of the 5th ARVN Division wiped out a well-entrenched enemy force during a three-hour bunker-to-bunker battle 70 miles north of Saigon. Thirty-two enemy soldiers were killed in the action.

"It was one of the finest ARVN actions I've ever seen," said Major General E.B. Roberts, 1st Cavalry Division commander.

The exclusively ARVN operation which included ARVN armored cavalry and ARVN air strikes, was carried out "just as well as any operation I've seen, anywhere, anytime," declared an American officer who witnessed the battle.

The ARVN company commander, Second Lieutenant Phan Huan Vu, was slightly wounded three times in the battle but refused to leave his men for medical aid.

The initial contact began in late morning when the 14th Company, 4th Battalion of the 9th ARVN Regiment, ran into circular bunker and trenchline positions four miles west of An Loc.

While receiving heavy machine gun, automatic weapons and rocket fire, the infantry company fought its way into the complex. Midway through the fight and inside the bunker ring, the ARVN soldiers received an air drop ammo supply from a 1st Cavalry helicopter.

Fighting close in among the dug-in bunkers, the ARVN troops silenced one after another of the two-to-four-man positions. Resistance ended three hours after the battle had begun.



SILHOUETTED—A machine gunner from the 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (AM) is silhouetted against the setting sun as his squad prepares to move out to its night ambush position on the coastal plain near Camp Evans. (USA PHOTO By: Lt. Milton Parsons)

Airborne Kill 16 VC In 'Pineapple Region'

SAIGON (USA) — Troops of the 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division were recently combat assaulted into the scrub brush and marshes of the "Pineapple Region," 15 miles southwest of Saigon, and killed 16 Viet Cong soldiers in an intermittent, afternoon-long skirmish.

Troop-carrying choppers from the 116th Helicopter Company initiated the battle when they air-landed infantrymen of the 1st Battalion, 508th Airborne Infantry almost on top of five VC soldiers.

With door guns blazing, the

"lift ships" discharged their cargo of "All Americans" who immediately took up the fight with their small arms and automatic weapons.

"The area was dotted with freshly built bunkers," said Warrant Officer Michael P. O'Connor of Beavertown, Ore., pilot of one of the gunships covering the combat assault. "I saw several enemy in a tree line near a canal, and as the ground troops approached, they started to leave the area. 'We rolled in on them with a combination of rocket and minigun fire cutting

off their escape."

Shortly after the landing, two canals away, another cluster of VC was spotted only 25 meters in front of the All Americans' advance. Several of them broke for cover but were killed by machinegun fire from the gunships circling the area.

For the remainder of the afternoon the airborne infantrymen chased the enemy force through the marshlands and, with support of the "Stinger" gunships, 16 enemy were killed and numerous bunkers destroyed.

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TAKE COVER—After being combat assaulted into an area southwest of Chu Lai, Sergeant John Shepardson of Owegan, N.Y., takes protective cover behind a dike. Shepardson is a member of the Americal Division's 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry of the 198th Infantry Brigade. (USA PHOTO By: PFC James R. Small)

Drivers Meet The Challenge

Trucks In The Valley

GIA LE (USA) — It was a miserable hot and dusty two hours for truck drivers of the 515th Transportation Company as they inched out of the jagged mountains of I Corps onto the primitive terrain of the A Shau Valley.

Almost every possible trick of trucking maneuverability had to be incorporated into this challenging operation, which marked the first time such a convoy had ventured forth into the war-torn valley.

The much needed supplies were first transported by another convoy of large flatbed trucks from the 39th Transportation Battalion in Gia Le to Fire Base Blaze where they were trans-

ferred to smaller five-ton trucks.

The trucks then began their arduous 13-mile journey on the practically impossible road to Fire Base Rendezvous in the A Shau Valley.

The mission called for large quantities of supplies to be trucked to units of the 101st Airborne Division (AM), which is building Fire Base Rendezvous.

Security was provided for the convoy by artillery based at Fire Base Blaze, together with helicopter gunships and tanks.

According to Lieutenant Colonel John E. Goff, commanding officer of the 39th Transportation Battalion, the use of these convoys will mean a more timely delivery of the building materials for the 101st. This will in turn aid them in securing the entire A Shau Valley and surrounding areas.

The 39th Transportation Battalion is proud of its proficiency in mission accomplishment by the men of the 515th Transportation Company whose motto, "We'll carry you," continues to stand tall in preserving the spirit of the logistical soldier in the I Corps Tactical Zone.

'Boots Were Made For Walking'

TAN TRU (USA) — The Mekong Delta, known for its water and mud, has caused foot problems for the GIs who plod through its terrain day after day.

Each unit seems to have its own method of dealing with these discomforts. A preventive method used by the 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry of the 3rd Brigade, 9th Infantry Division, has begun to decrease the seriousness of foot problems which can cripple a combat unit.

"Problems such as ring worm and eczema are caused by constant contact with paddy water," said Captain (Dr.) Richard F. Liszewski of Philadelphia.

New Bunkers

PLEIKU (USA) — Cement bunkers may seem to be standard equipment on the perimeter of Engineer Hill near Pleiku.

The bunkers are the result of a testing program conducted by Company B of the 815th Engineer Battalion, who recently tested five concrete bunker designs to determine which would best protect the occupants from shrapnel and small arms fire.

Specialist 4 Harry Bateman and Private First Class James Day built the special bunkers, and later the pair fired on their work with .50-caliber machine guns.

A design consisting of two cement block walls the space between them filled with sand worked the best. Another design, which also proved to be adequate, featured a cement block wall on the outside and a wooden stud wall on the inside.

The cement bunkers appeared to be safer than those made of sandbags, and they have the added advantage of not requiring constant maintenance, an inherent characteristic which requires considerable time and efforts by troops throughout Vietnam.

Air Strikes Catch Enemy Sleeping

CAMP RADICLIFF (USA) — Twenty-five North Vietnamese Army (NVA) soldiers were killed and 30 large enemy huts and bunkers were destroyed in a joint service strike within hours after the launch of a combat assault by the 4th Infantry Division soldiers in an area 35 miles northwest of An Khe.

The operation saw Troop A, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry of the 17th Combat Aviation Group, and Air Force jets flying in support of the 1st Battalion, 1st Brigade, 8th Infantry. The infantrymen were moved into the area by the 119th Assault Helicopter Company.

Twelve air strikes were dropped on suspected enemy locations by the Air Force jets before the infantrymen made their assault on three landing zones (LZ).

The cavalry's "Ruthless Riders" were the first to locate enemy positions. Light Observation Helicopter (LOH) pilot James R. Muse, a warrant officer from Marietta, Ga., said, "After I made a visual reconnaissance of the area, I was requested to leave the vicinity because of pending air strikes. As I moved out, I spotted a cleared area below with no grass or underbrush, but there was evidence of fresh digging."

"As we circled the area, I found we were at the edge of a well camouflaged company-sized enemy complex which stretched from 400 to 500 feet in length," said Muse.

"Although there were a lot of 20 by 40 structures and 15 larger bunkers," continued Muse, "neither my observer nor I saw any enemy activity until a couple of NVA soldiers came out of a hootch."

"The group enlarged quickly as the sleeping enemy began pouring out of the newly constructed huts. Accompanied by my wing man, we sprayed the complex with minigun fire, but the enemy didn't react at all," stated Muse. "We were less than 30 feet above the group, and they just stood there staring at us."

When the LOH and Cobra ships left the area, Air Force jets came in to level the complex.

The Cavalry's Aero Rifle Platoon (ARP) was inserted nearby to secure an LZ for Company D, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry which climaxed the assault with a sweep of the area.

The "Bullets" of the 1st Brigade recovered numerous articles of enemy clothing and rucksacks containing enemy documents.

body which is affected. Ring worm often spreads to other parts of the body, and the fewer clothes a man wears, the better," said Liszewski.

In addition to taking the malaria pill, the Delta troops also take grissofulvin tablets (to combat fungus infection). This pill, along with shower shoes and limited time in the field during operations has eliminated the majority of the troopers' foot problems.



SILVER STAR

Johnson, George P. CPT USA
Hamilton, Roy E. SFC USA

BRONZE STAR MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE

Ansel, Raymond B. CPT USA
Barron, Robert C. MAJ USA
Beatty, John R. CPT USA
Boardingham, Paul E. MAJ USA
Bowen, Bruce I. SGT USA
Broderson, Marvin P. 1LT USA
Busbea, Charles P. SSG USA, 1st OLC
Busch, Conrad H. Jr. 1LT USA, 1st OLC
Coggins, Gary M. CPT USA
Cropp, Robert J. CPT USA
Davison, Roy T. SSG USA
Donahue, John J. CPT USA
Eddlemon, Leroy G. SFC USA
Glasheen, John J. Jr. 1LT USA
Gregory, Paul A. MAJ USA, 1st OLC
Hauser, Ferdinand H. LTC USA
Higdon, Clarence F. SGT USA
Jerome, Robert C. SFC USA, 3rd OLC
Johnson, Jesse SFC USA
Justesen, Richard W. CPT USA
King, Leo W. SFC USA, 1st OLC

Long, Campbell G. 1LT USA
Luff, Gary M. MAJ USA
Mackin, Eberhard SP5 USA
Mahoney, James P. 1LT USA, 1st OLC
Mayo, Michael R. CPT USA
Mutz, Gregory T. 2LT USA, 2nd OLC
Parker, Bernard O. MSG USA, 1st OLC
Paulovits, Ferencz K. SFC USA
Peterson, Virgil A. SFC USA, 2nd OLC
Pennell, David R. SGT USA
Poston, Larry R. SP4 USA, 1st OLC
Reed, Edward T. CPT USA, 1st OLC
Ritenour, Thomas J. MAJ USA
Robles, Albert M. SFC USA
Salanti, Frederick R. 1LT USA, 1st OLC
Schailey, Glen H. CPT USA
Shannon, Denver C. SP4 USA
Swann, Harold E. CPT USA
Tratt, Samuel G. SFC USA
Voce, Patrick F. 1LT USA
Wands, Robert E. MAJ USA, 2nd OLC
Weems, Ronald H. SSG USA, 2nd OLC
Whalen, Bobby T. SFC USA
Wood, Billy B. MAJ USA
Wood, James H. SFC USA, 1st OLC



Fresh Water

Marines of the 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment distribute fresh water during operations near the DMZ. The water, in plastic bottles, was heli-lifted to the infantrymen.

(USMC PHOTO By: Cpl Philip R. Boshme)

Kit Carson Scouts Masters In Field

DIAN (USA) — Many American soldiers try to think like Viet Cong to predict enemy moves and locate their installations. Kit Carson Scouts have this advantage built in since they once were Viet Cong.

The 2nd Brigade of the 1st Infantry Division has an entire platoon of Kit Carson Scouts, possibly the only such platoon in Vietnam.

They are mainly an intelligence platoon but have great combat capability.

"They are absolutely fearless regarding combat," Major Carl Reiber, brigade intelligence officer, said. "They once engaged the lead element of an entire NVA battalion and took them with such surprise and strength, that Charlie headed right back into the jungle minus some men and equipment."

As information gatherers they have few equals. They are able to communicate easily, the people trust them readily, and they know what information is important.

The scouts are masters in the

field. An innocent clump of bamboo that would be passed by most GIs might reveal a well-hidden bunker to a scout's practiced eye. Since they have been on both ends of VC booby traps, they are able to locate and destroy them with a minimum of danger.

To become a Kit Carson Scout a person must have served with either the VC or NVA and rallied to the government side. The choice of becoming a scout is up to the individual; however, there are always more applicants than positions.

The scouts have proven to be enthusiastic, aggressive and anxious to serve their country, Captain Robert Higgins of the training command said. "It is rewarding to work with them."

Combined Action Platoon Proves Mettle In Battle

HOI AN (USMC) — Take 34 Vietnamese Popular Forces (PF) soldiers, 7 Marines, 1 Navy hospital corpsman and a dog named Suzy, weld them into a fighting unit using the torch of freedom, and you have Combined Action Platoon (CAP) 2-7-3. Their mission is to deny the enemy access to Cua Giang village, three miles north of here.

Recently, the CAP unit had its mettle tested when five Viet Cong came into the 2,500-person village, which the unit was protecting, and told the people they (the VC) were coming in to kill the combined Vietnamese and American unit. However, after

the warning was issued the five enemy scurried from the village before word of their presence could reach the men of the CAP.

Staff Sergeant Nguyen Man, PF platoon commander, was told of the enemy's visit by village elders. With more than 10 years of battle experience behind him, Man knew the VC would have to make good their boast, or lose face with the villagers.

Two nights later the VC attempted to make good their boast. The CAP was again forewarned of the attack and was more than ready for the unsuspecting enemy. They had Claymore mines and booby traps set up around their sight, deep fighting holes and clear fields of fire for their weapons.

One six-man patrol, composed of four PFs, two Marines and Suzy, were out scouting the area when the VC attacked the CAP unit. The dug-in troops were on the receiving end of automatic weapons fire, satchel charges and hand grenades. The CAP quickly gained fire superiority and drove the enemy back from the encircled positions.

Man was out of his hole directing the fire of his men when he was hit by an AK-47 round in the upper thigh. He got up and continued to direct his men's fire. Moments later he was hit again, this time in the shoulder near the collarbone. Getting up, he again led a charge against the enemy — scattering them. In doing so he received yet another wound, this time in the groin, but he could not be held down. His place was leading his men, and he continued to do so throughout the ensuing battle.

The men on patrol heard the firing start and moved quickly to the site. Just before they arrived on the scene of battle, Suzy, the CAP mascot, alerted the men by barking at the retreating enemy. The patrol dropped into ambush positions and opened fire on the fleeing enemy soldiers when they ran into the ambush kill zone.

When the action finally died down, the CAP unit sent out a sweep and search patrol. They found three VC bodies, numerous blood trails and marks where dead or wounded soldiers were dragged off into the night. Weapon-wise, they recovered two AK-47 assault rifles, one rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) launcher, two RPG rounds, a 9mm Chinese-made automatic pistol with two magazines and several documents.

Ironically, one of the recov-

ered bodies was the VC platoon leader who told the villagers that the PFs and Marines would all die.

The Viet Cong had indeed lost more than "face" in their encounter with CAP 2-7-3.

Nguyen Man refused to be evacuated until he gave his report, in person, standing before his Vietnamese seniors the next morning. He then allowed himself to be taken to a hospital and treated for his wounds. That night, after refusing hospitalization, he returned to his men.

Man has been recommended for a decoration for his bravery and wounds that night.

Suzy, the other casualty, was shot in the paw and hospitalized for two weeks, and is now back with her masters, sporting a Purple Heart ribbon on her collar.

The Vietnamese and Americans are still at Cua Giang; the enemy has again been defeated.

Canh Sats Ambush Terrorists

LONG BINH (USA) — Two figures made ominous silhouettes as they crept down a deserted street in the city of Tam Ky one recent moonlit night. One figure was heavily laden with satchel charges and explosives. Both were Viet Cong probing the city's defenses for weak spots.

That night they ran into a National Police (Canh Sat) ambush that brought death to the would-be terrorists. The satchel charges were detonated during the brief firefight and left a hole three feet deep where the Viet Cong stood.

Such encounters are not uncommon for the men of the 18th Military Police Brigade's 146th MP Platoon, 504th MP Battalion. The town is the center of an area where enemy activity has been heavy for sometime.

MPs from the 146th have worked in close harmony with the local National Police and the Vietnamese Military Police providing combined police patrols since two weeks after their arrival in early February.

"We came here at a time when a large number of American personnel were moving into the area and required the presence of additional military police," said Staff Sergeant Pascal R. French of Crossville, Tenn., who is the noncommissioned officer in charge of the 146th MP Detachment.

MPs from the 146th also work closely with the 23rd MP Company of the Americal Division. Tam Ky is the stopover point for many convoys and is a staging area for others. Convoy traffic and congestion in the area require extra attention on the part of the MPs. They ensure the staging area is kept as uncluttered as possible and are constantly on the alert for VC terrorists.

Men from the 146th MP Platoon provide town patrol, road patrol, accident investigation and convoy escort in an area of I Corps that has seen heavy fighting in the last several months.



Sympathy Safari

Staff Sergeant Fennie C. Reese leads a group of U.S. Air Force men from Pleiku AB into a Montagnard village. The boxes contain supplies and clothing donated by sympathetic people in the United States. Gifts of this sort are part of the Air Force's civic action program and are designed to help the Vietnamese become more self-sufficient. (USAR PHOTO)

Albino's Hypersensitivity Treated

Team Gives Boy 'Day Vision'

CAMP RADCLIFF (USA) — A young Montagnard boy named Mong can now use his eyes during the daylight hours.

There was a time when he shielded his eyes from the bright light of the sunny Highlands. He lived a normal life only after the sun had set. Mong is an albino with extremely sensitive eyes.

The 4th Infantry Division soldiers assigned to the 1st Brigade's 1st Squadron, 10th

Armored Cavalry working with the unit's Medical Civic Action Program (MEDCAP) discovered the plight of the young boy during a daily MEDCAP operation 30 miles west of An Khe.

Eyes Examined

Men of the Cav's MEDCAP team saw to it that Mong received an eye examination at Camp Enari, near Pleiku. And as a result, the problem has been resolved.

Specially darkened sun glasses have been purchased with money from the 4th Division's Chaplain's Fund. Mong now leads a more normal life with other youngsters in his vil-

lage of Phu Son, near Mang Yang Pass between Pleiku and An Khe.

Mong Respected

"Surprisingly enough," says MEDCAP team leader Captain John Cole Jr. of Golden, Colo., "the villagers treat Mong with honor and respect."

Even though Mong's albino skin contrasts sharply with that of his relatives and friends, the villagers don't regard him as strange.

"His skin does present a problem," says Cole, "that of sensitivity. My team tries to check the boy as often as possible for signs of infection."

They're Heroes To Orphans

SAIGON (RAA) — Each Saturday afternoon two Australian soldiers push open the old iron gate of one of Saigon's many orphanages, and walk into a small quadrangle where a dozen small Vietnamese children are playing.

The Aussies, Sergeant Vic Pitts and Lance Corporal Ray Moon are both members of the 110th Signals Squadron, Saigon, and are regular weekly visitors at the Dong Chua Orphanage.

Both have their arms filled with boxes of food for the children, who come forward to meet the soldiers ... their arms crossed over their chests and heads bowed in the customary Vietnamese greeting.

Shouting "Uc Dai Loi" (Australian), the children run to the soldiers to be picked up and shown the affection they need so much.

Moon explained that much of the food for the orphanage, consisting of baby food, milk and sugar, had been bought with money provided by the Gippsland Center for the Defense of Australia.

"If the people in Australia could see these children it would break a lot of hearts," Moon declared.

The orphanage, tucked away in a corner of this sprawling city, caters to as many as 120 children at a time.

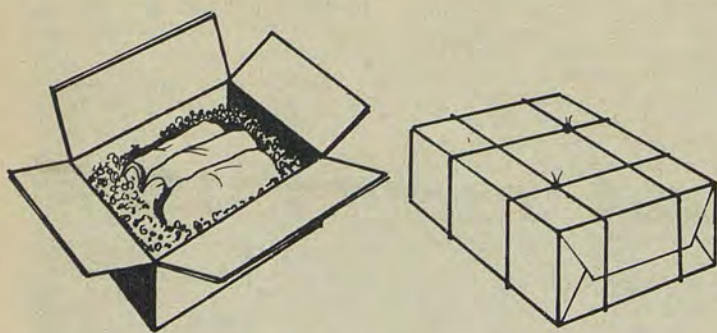
They all learn to know well the two Australians who visit them each week.

"You become a bit of a hero," explained Pitts.

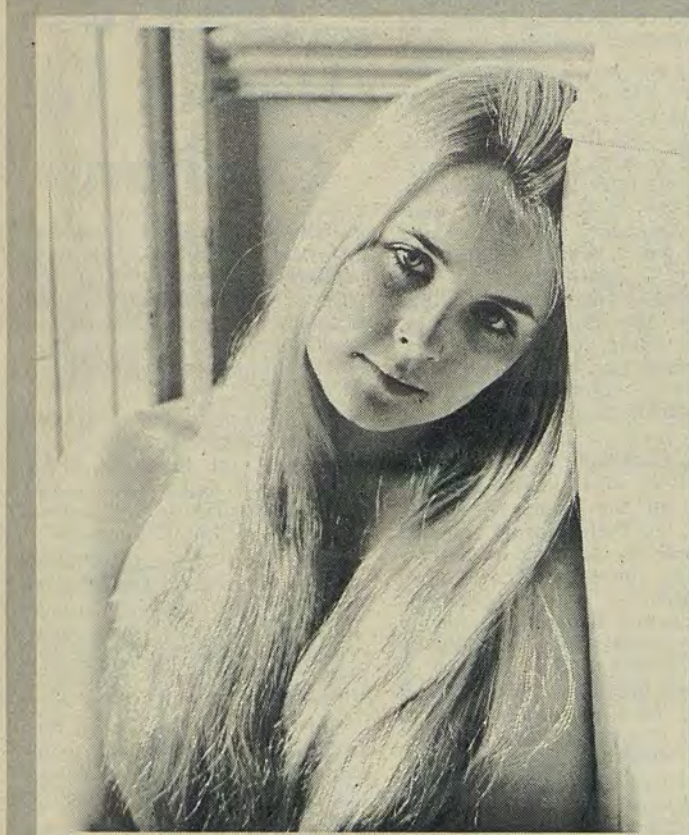
The older children, who range in age up to five and six, follow the visitors around the building. But the small ones, sometimes only a few weeks old, lie on their cots and watch with curious eyes.

Once the orphanage staff is able to restore the health of the children, many are sent overseas for adoption.

But until that time, food provided from the Australian donations helps keep them as healthy and happy as orphans can be.



THE VALUE OF YOUR GIFT IS IN THE PACKING—Cushion your gifts in boxes of solid fiberboard, metal or wood. Omit outside wrappers if the box makes an adequate shipping container. If wrapping is needed, use a heavy Kraft paper similar to that used for grocery bags. Remember to include the complete name of the addressee and your return address. Don't forget the required customs declaration form, and remember all jewelry and watches \$10 in value must go by registered mail. Registered parcels must be completely sealed with brown tape, have no rattles and be sent either by Air Mail or First Class Mail.



Dreamy?

This pretty blonde seems to be dreaming about something, and perhaps it's that extra night you may be getting on your R&R trip.

Effective Nov. 1, the time on the ground will be increased to six nights for the following R&R sites: Bangkok, Hong Kong, Singapore, Taipei and Manila. As you probably know, the stay at the other three R&R sites is now six nights, and will remain the same.

As soon as the R&R office receives flight schedules from the airlines all requests will be processed, and the selection lists will be published at the earliest date.

With this change, personnel in leave status who depart Vietnam on R&R aircraft must return with the same R&R group.

Now, just think what you can do with that extra night! Dreamy?

(PHOTO COURTESY OF PETER GOWLAND)

Editorial

Why We Use MPC

EVER WONDER JUST WHY we have to use Military Payment Certificates (MPC) in Vietnam? MPC can sometimes be a nuisance, especially if your wallet is filled with the equivalent of five dollars in small "change" and a few hundred piasters. Between the two forms of currency, it seems most people are never really sure exactly how much money they have in their possession — until a few days before payday, of course. But there are good reasons for the practice of using script.

The former policy of allowing Vietnam servicemen to use "greenbacks" was harming our own war effort and the Vietnamese economy because of illegal currency transactions — that is, black marketing in money. Since the U.S. dollar is one of three international currencies, and therefore can be used to buy goods in any market, worldwide, many nations are anxious to get these dollars, by legal or illegal means.

MPC is for use only in U.S. facilities such as exchanges, clubs and messes. Only authorized patrons of these facilities are allowed to possess MPC. This means, according to MACV Directive 37-6, that all in-country business transactions with un-

authorized personnel must be accomplished in piasters. It is further worth noting that possession of MPC by Vietnamese Nationals is forbidden by Vietnamese law.

It is possible that black market dollars can be used to buy Communist supplies and weapons. The process isn't very complicated and, as the end result, the dollars you place into the black market could pay for the weapons that might kill you! Whether you put greenbacks or MPC into illegal hands, the effect is the same.

Just what are the consequences of an illegal money deal? Under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, conducting a black market or other illegal transaction is considered a criminal act. In other words, since violation of the pertinent MACV directive constitutes violation of a lawful general order, an illegal money deal becomes a court-martial offense, with penalties including imprisonment and dismissal from the service.

If it becomes necessary for you to deal on the local economy, first convert your MPC to piasters at any authorized U.S. conversion point. It'll save you from many future regrets. (MACV)

Hey! We're Getting A New Telephone System

PLANTATION (USA) — A lot's been heard, since November 1968, about a new communication system to be employed in Vietnam. That's the date the first tandem switching center was completed at Bang Pla, Thailand, marking the beginning of a joint Army Air Force operation, the Southeast Asia Automatic Telephone System.

With the completion of the final switching center at Pleiku (January 1970) the system will provide a complete automatic telephone system for the Republic of Vietnam and Thailand.

All Class A dial subscribers will be able to dial direct to any other dial telephone in Vietnam or Thailand after the completion of this system, which includes nine tandem switching centers in all.

To use this new system, the subscriber must first dial "eight," wait for a second dial tone, then dial the seven digit number he wants. It sounds easy

and it is, thanks to some highly sophisticated and expensive long distance switching equipment.

Although, due to the cost involved, Class C subscribers will not be able to initiate long distance calls, they will be able to receive them.

Personnel to run and maintain the three switching stations that the Army is responsible for (Vung Chua Mountain, Can Tho and Bang Pla) are currently being trained at Ft. Monmouth, N.J., home of the Signal Corps, and being sent to Vietnam and Thailand to do the job.

Stromberg Carlson Corporation will provide technical assistance for one year after the activation of each tandem switch, and the first school-trained Army personnel are scheduled to arrive at the 29th Signal Battalion, Thailand.

Thanks to the Southeast Asia Automatic Telephone System things are looking up for irate subscribers.

Don't "Do It Yourself"

Home-Made Wills Are Trouble

It often spells trouble for people to write their own wills. A "do-it-yourself" will, often lacks such essentials as a date or a signature. It may be invalid and often ignores important tax savings.

Other common errors often found in homemade wills are failure to dispense with the requirement for an executor's bond, especially where a husband or wife is named as executor. This may be costly.

Failure to give the executor power to sell estate property, to pay debts, taxes, court expenses and cash bequests can be costly. Without this power, the executor may have to make badly timed sales that bring losses or disrupt a business.

The amateur may also fail to describe his property and heirs

properly, or name other heirs if the first should die before the writer, or forget to make cash bequests properly so they still will be carried out, even if his estate should shrink in value or

be subject to heavy expenses.

Contact your legal assistance officer for advice on wills. He can prepare one for any particular situation. (SEVENTH AIR FORCE NEWS)

New Currency Control Coming

SAIGON (MACV) — The mailing of money orders at the time of purchase became mandatory in the Republic of Vietnam today (Oct. 10), and the presentation of the currency control plate (MACV Form 5) at the time of financial transactions is now mandatory.

Clerks or tellers issuing money orders will perform the actual mailing of them — if prac-

ticable in the presence of the purchaser — and only to addresses in CONUS, U.S. territories and possessions or APO/FPOs outside of Vietnam. (Mobile money order teams servicing units in the field are the only exception to this policy.)

This move is designed to reduce the amount of dollar instruments circulating in the Vietnamese economy.

THE OBSERVER

FIRST IN VIETNAM

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
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Blown Bailey Bridge Being Rebuilt

TAN TRU (USA)—As a result of early morning sabotage by Viet Cong guerrillas, Fire Support Base Machete lost its only land link with essential supplies from the 9th Infantry Division's 3d Brigade Headquarters at Tan An.

The base is the home of the division's 2d Battalion, 60th Infantry; and the bridge connecting it with its supplies lay in a twisted, useless mess at the bottom of a small river.

The Engineer Company Provisional, made up of individuals of the 9th Division's 15th Engineer Battalion who chose to remain in Vietnam, were at the crossing when the sun rose. They cleared away the remains of the old bridge, took measurements and set the foundation for the new one.

First a launching section was constructed. This section would not remain as part of the finished product, but would serve only to lead the

rest of the bridge across the river and would be disassembled when the span was completed.

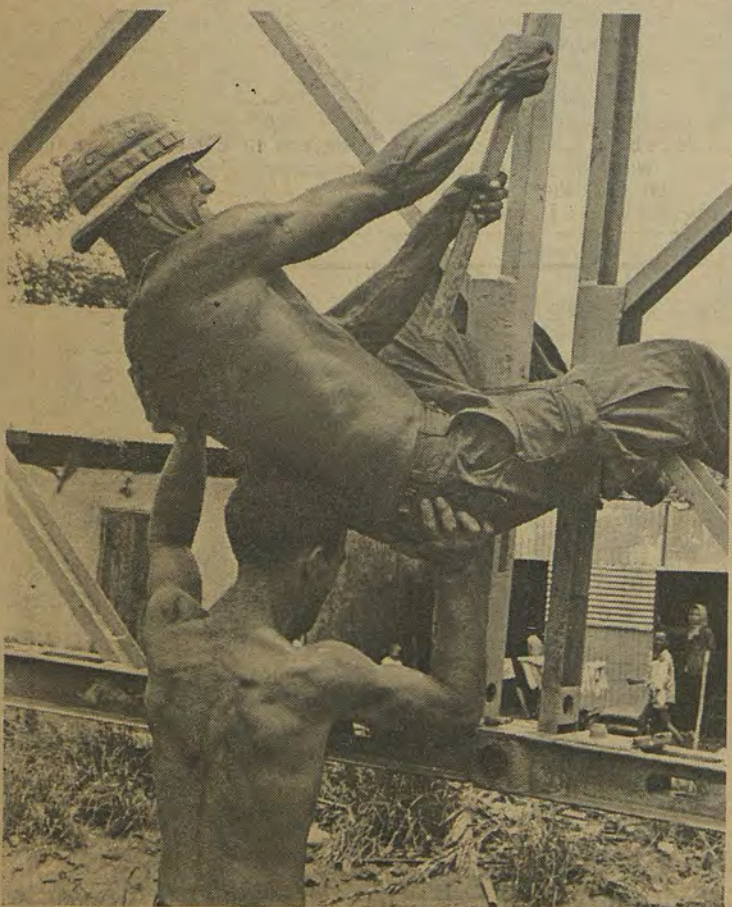
Next heavy rollers were set in place and the methodical addition of piece after piece of the new bridge began.

One by one the quarter-ton transoms and panels were pinned into place. As the engineers completed more of the bridge, they pushed it over the rollers little by little out over the river. Counter balanced by its own weight, the bridge inched its way across.

Guiding the launching section on the rollers, they began to push the construction over the river. With a "lay hold—HEAVE!" and with assorted grunts from the men and creaks from the bridge, the job was almost complete. The Tan Tru base camp would once again have road access to the rest of the Mekong Delta.



SP4 Melvin Wilkerson (left) and SGT John Bilton lead a transom out to the Bailey Bridge.



SP5 David Richerson gets a boost as he drives a pin into a bridge panel.

Story and Photos
By SP5 Jay Morrow, USA



Engineers from the 15th Engineer Company (Provisional) work as a precision team to position a panel for the Bailey Bridge.



As a group of engineers holds the panel in position, SP5 Richerson drives the pin into place.

BANGKOK...

City of Angels



A photographer's paradise can be found in Bangkok's colorful and architectural temples.

**Bangkok is the pulse and breath of Thailand
... And an ideal place for R&R**

by Major Sandi Olson,
U.S. Army



Gold Buddha is 8½ tons.

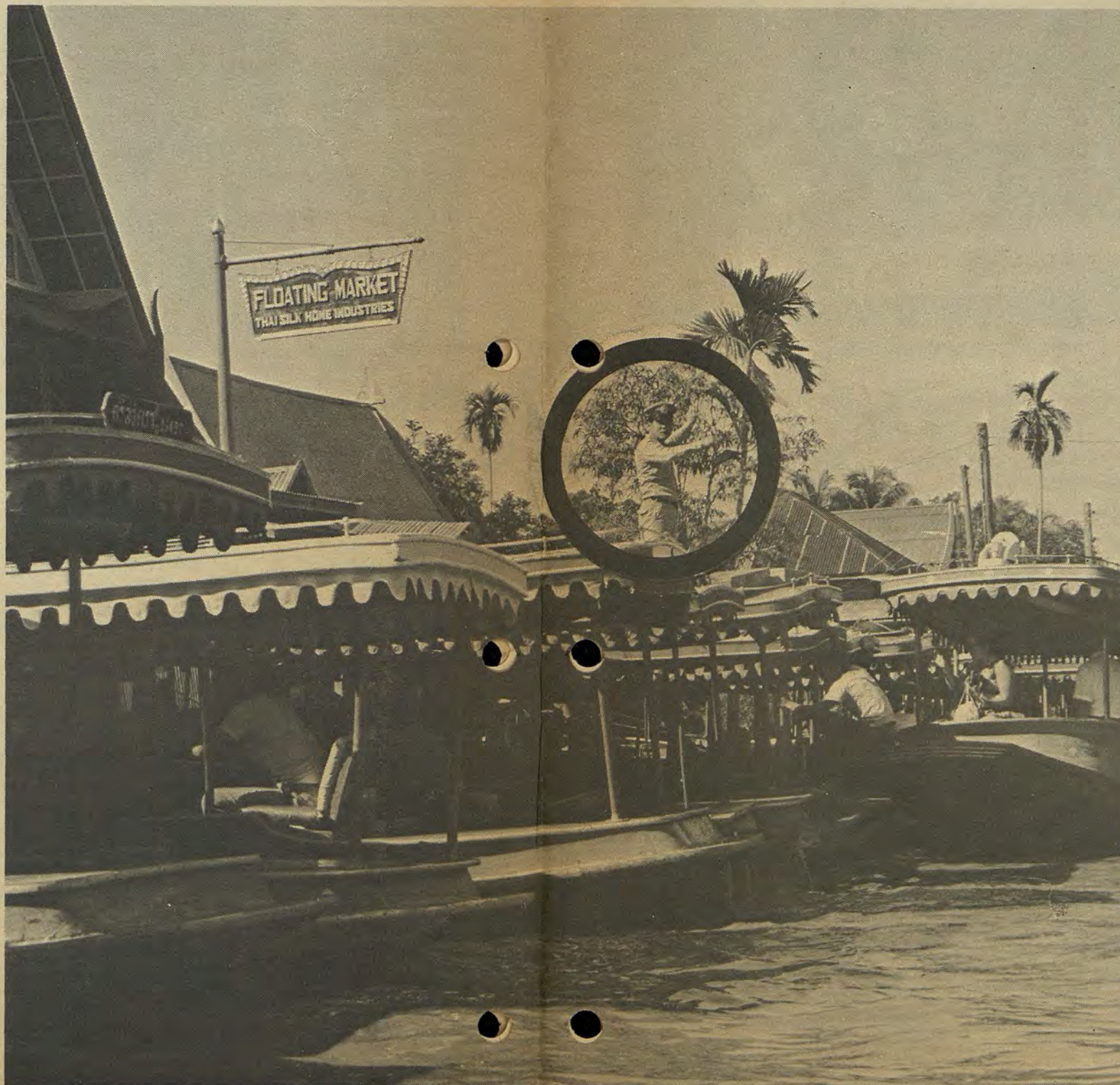


Timland 'bulldozer' shows off.



LEFT:
Young Thai girls, trained in the art of traditional dancing from the age of 5, perform daily at Timland.

BELOW:
R&R servicemen pause to capture the mystic and bewildering beauty so prevalent in Thailand.



Heavy water traffic in Bangkok's Floating Market gets a helping hand from a Thai "canal" policeman.

THAI PEOPLE CALL IT KRUNGTHEP (the City of Angels), while others refer to it as the Venice of the Orient or the Jewel of Asia. Whatever you call it, the city of Bangkok is the pulse and breath of Thailand. It's a city of swift-moving days and dancing nights, of abundant restaurants and off-center cabarets, a paradise to photographers, shoppers, girl-watchers, and especially to servicemen on R&R.

Bangkok is a regular port of call and can be reached by any mode of transportation. Its physical and cultural beauty and the combination of old and new can only be described as a sight-seer's paradise.

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN HISTORY you can almost relive the pomp and grandeur of the palaces and temples in Thailand. Of all the palaces in Bangkok, the most famous and most striking is the Grand Palace. There are altogether 23,474 temples in Thailand, with 381 of them in Bangkok alone. For a Thai the world revolves around his temple and the Temple of the Emerald Buddha is without question the most ornate. The temple of the Reclining Buddha, is also popular and has a colossal gold-covered image of the reclining Buddha.

A "must" for all visitors, and an unforgettable experience, is a canal trip to the Floating Market. The color and variety in this scene of Thai life along the river cannot be equaled.

Timland is the only place in Thailand which offers visitors with a limited amount of time a chance to see as many traditional attractions from various parts of Thailand as possible. To see authentic Thai dances visit the National Museum and the Cultural Auditorium, where there are performances several times a week.

IF YOU ENJOY SPORTS, don't miss Thai boxing which is a cross between the American type, the French art of foot-fighting, and plain street fighting. What results is a free-for-all—fists, feet, knees and elbows being thrown by each contestant, all to the tune of two drums and a pipe.

THAILAND PRODUCES MANY QUALITY

GIFT ITEMS. The best known "buys" are Thai silk, teakwood carvings, lacquerware and, definitely, bronzeware. — Rings, brooches, necklaces, bracelets — any type of jewelry you select in Bangkok will make a good investment or a welcome gift. Two points to remember: 1) Imported merchandise is relatively expensive, so stick to the goods that are native to Thailand, and 2) You are expected to bargain in most stores, even though the item may have a price tag.

BANGKOK OFFERS A WIDE AND EXCELLENT VARIETY of restaurants which feature menus of American, European, Chinese and Thai dishes. A word of caution: When eating Thai food proceed cautiously for it can be extremely hot and spicy.

You can find a restaurant to fit any budget, with the more expensive offering dinner entertainment, dancing, floorshows, classical Thai dancing or jazz combos.

NIGHTLIFE IN BANGKOK CAN BE EXCITING, too, but generally speaking Bangkok night clubs are not renowned for their food. So do as the Thais do: Have dinner at a well-known restaurant and arrive at a nightclub in time for the first floor show. Many night spots have a minimum cover charge and the music ranges from cool jazz to hot rock. At most nightclubs you'll find dancing partners available for a nominal fee. Or if you prefer, you can enjoy the company of a hostess for only the cost of her drinks.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS are plentiful and of high quality. Bangkok has about 65 fine hotels with rates from \$6 to \$16. Four U.S. military hotels offer extremely low rates plus happy hour, massage parlors, Class VI store, barber shops, floor shows, dining rooms and cocktail lounges. The Chao Phya Hotel is for officers, Windsor Hotel for NCOs, and the Capital and Prince Hotels for all grades. All one needs is a copy of R&R orders and military ID card.

Culture, sports, entertainment, shopping — Bangkok offers them all — and it could be the ideal place for your R&R.

MP Patrol Boats Keep River Traffic Flowing

SAIGON (USA) — The ammunition convoy churned slowly up the Dong Nai River. Aboard the escorting patrol boats of the 18th Military Police Brigade's 458th Transportation Company (PRB), crew members peered intently at the shadowy shoreline, searching for signs of the enemy they sensed was near.

Suddenly it happened. The shoreline came alive with the flickering muzzle flashes of automatic weapons; and the deepthroated thump of RPGs showed the enemy was going all out to damage the convoy.

The gunners on the twin .50 cal. machine guns mounted forward on the patrol boats and the single .50 cal. aft, swung into action.

From amidship, Honeywell belt-fed grenade launchers began hammering the shore with

40mm fire, silencing the enemy fire.

The convoy continued its course.

But the convoy had not passed through the engagement unscathed.

A fire had broken out on one of the ammunition barges. Pallets of bombs were on fire. If they exploded it might mean disaster for the convoy.

Crew members acted quickly and coolly. Moving onto the barge, they slide the burning pallets and their cargo of heated bombs into the water. All five later received the Bronze Star.

Escorting ammunition and POL barges is but a part of the many-faceted job performed by the 458th in providing security for the waterways and port facilities in the Republic of Vietnam.

The company also works in

conjunction with Vietnamese National Police in boarding and searching indigenous junks and sampans.

Rescue operations is another field where the 458th is active. Aid given ranges from administering first aid to Vietnamese hurt in river collisions to removing the crew of a ship which was struck by a mine near Nha Be.

Two types of craft are used by the 458th. River patrol boats (PBR) are 32-foot boats constructed primarily of fiberglass. These highly maneuverable craft, which are propelled and

guided by jets of water, can come to a full stop in one boat length when traveling at top speed of some 32 knots.

The Boston Whaler is an 18-footer which is especially useful in congested areas such as Saigon port. It was a Boston Whaler that recently detected enemy frogmen who were trying to reach DeLong Pier at Vung Tau, and plant the satchel charges they carried. A PBR was notified and tossed concussion grenades into the area in which the underwater demolition men were operating. They soon sur-

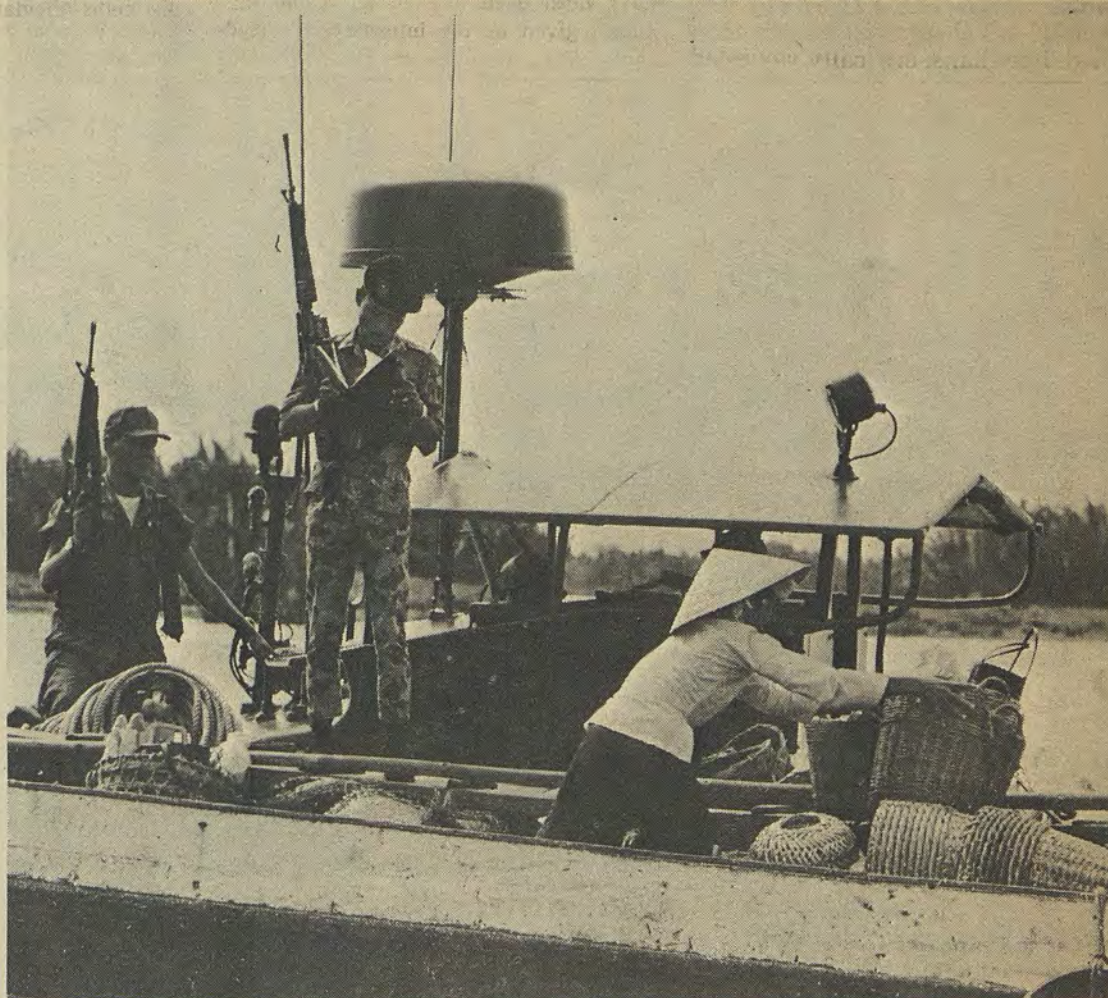
rounded; one of them badly wounded, and were detained.

It is not only river traffic that is aided by the 458th. They are able to help ground troops locate enemy rocket and mortar sites by reporting coordinates of muzzle flashes they observe.

Waterways are a major avenue for the movement of supplies necessary for the prosecution of the war. To secure the waterways and their port facilities is the mission of the 458th Transportation Company (PBR), one they are carrying out with great success.

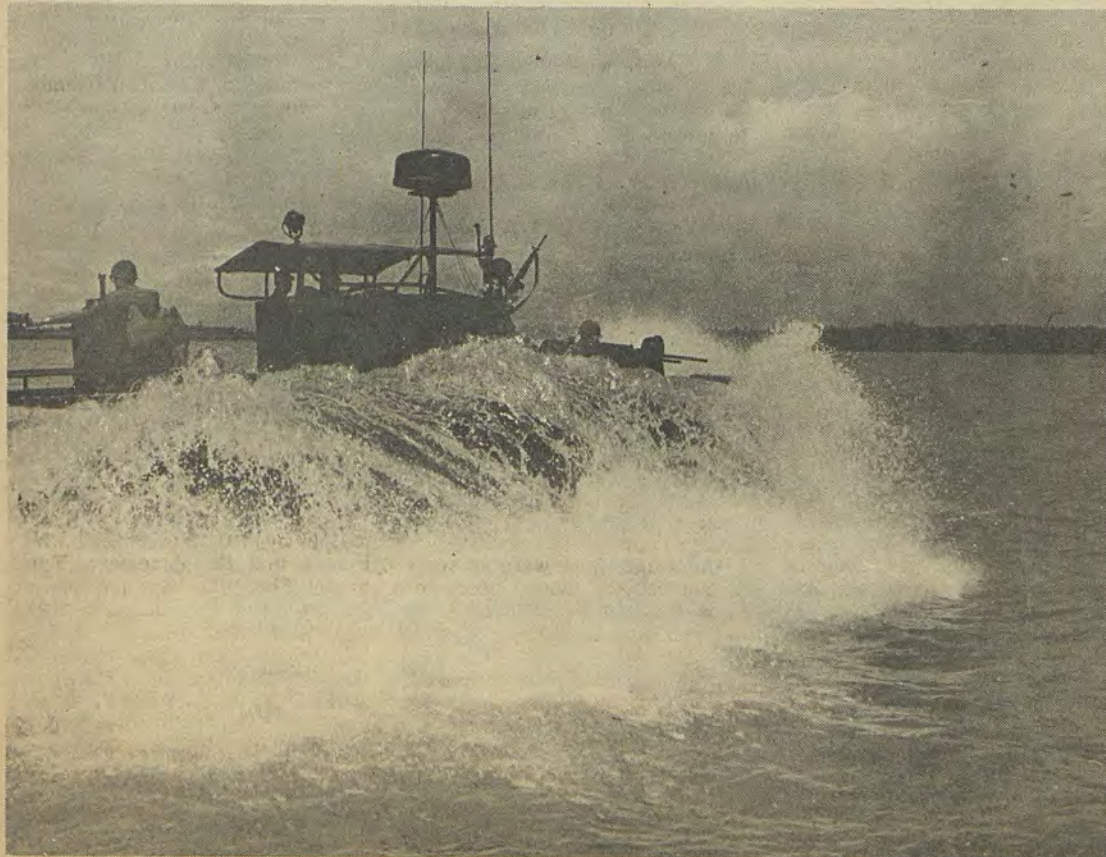


Maneuverability make Boston Whalers ideal for congested areas.



The 458th Trans. Co. (PBR) works in conjunction with VN National Police in checking sampans.

Story and Photos
By
SSG Robert Swift



PBR executes a 180 degree turn in one boat-length while traveling at top speed: 32 knots.



Twin .50 Cal. machine guns give PBRs added offensive punch.

Americal PSYOPS' VIP Pays Big Dividends

KY SANH (USA) — U.S. psychological operations (PSYOPS) inspired an elderly farmer to give information to Americal Division troops leading to the discovery of a deadly 122mm rocket apparently for use against division headquarters at Chu Lai, five miles east of here.

PSYOPS men of the 198th Infantry Brigade have concentrated their Voluntary Informants Program (VIP) efforts in this village, a hamlet which was recently the scene of a VC terrorist attack that killed 9 civilians, critically wounded

18 and caused injury to 80 others.

"There were three different leaflet drops dealing specifically with rockets just before this one was found," said Captain William D. Hyde of Merced, Calif., civil affairs officer for the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry.

The farmer, having read one of the leaflets, told the villager's Popular Forces of the find, who in turn notified the 1st Battalion. Located in a cluster of bushes, the missile was in good condition and had its warhead and rocket motor attached.

"It is inevitable that the rocket would have been used against us if the man hadn't given us the information," Hyde said. "This area is known as 'rocket

pocket' because it's a major launching location."

The farmer was paid 10,000 piasters for the rocket. "It completely depleted our VIP fund," the captain said, "but I'd have gotten more from somewhere if we'd needed it. I also threw in 50 pounds of corn and a pouch of tobacco. And I bought him a beer."

Following the turn-in, a brigade PSYOPS team led by Sergeant Duane R. Leake of Rochester, N.Y., returned to laud and encourage the villagers. "Our interpreter also reminded the people that it is the VC who cause most of their suffering, and that turning in enemy weapons helps alleviate that suffering," Leake said. "We also dropped more leaflets further explaining the VIP plan."

The 1st Battalion civil affairs men gave Ky Sanh a supply of captured food stuffs, including 2,000 pounds of corn, 500 pounds of rice, 100 pounds of salt and 50 pounds of tobacco.

The same day, Staff Sergeant Wayne Radabaugh of Grantsville, W. Va., treated more than 100 villagers in a medical civic action program (MEDCAP).

"We are seeing good results here," said Leake. "It takes a lot of courage to do what the farmer did — he knows the risk he's taking in the face of the VC. He's a brave man."

In this Vietnamese village it took one man to prove the success of the brigade's VIP and PSYOPS programs. "We offer the people help," Leake said, "and in showing they are willing to help us, they help themselves."



Dawn Patrol

A light morning mist falls on members of "C" Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment as they move out on an early morning patrol during an operation south of the DMZ. (USMC PHOTO By: Cpl Philip R. Boehme)

Extract 8 Despite Withering Fire

Team Takes Hot LZ In Stride

PHUOC VINH (USA) — There's no such thing as a routine house call for Army doctors in Vietnam.

"Some of these men would have died. I'm certain of it," said Captain Thomas Scofield of Opp, Ala., medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) pilot. They needed a doctor immediately and they got one."

The doctor was the 1st Cavalry's division surgeon, Lieutenant Colonel Joseph McNaney, who has been on flight status since 1964.

"We were airborne less than two minutes after MEDEVAC 21 took .50-cal. rounds over Landing Zone Ike and headed for home," said Scofield. "The people there told us to stay out, but we knew they had seriously wounded patients and went in anyway."

Braving automatic and small arms fire, the bird landed as mortar rounds pounded the firebase. McNaney and crew members Staff Sergeant William Gibson of Ft. Rucker, Ala., and Specialist 5 Richard Sullen of Montgomery, Ala., loaded eight litter patients on board and the helicopter sped toward a field hospital at Tay Ninh.

They returned immediately to extract more patients while the battle for the firebase continued.

That same afternoon the MEDEVAC teams was airborne

again. This time it was a dangerous hoist mission, extracting a patient from the dense jungle while hovering at tree-top level.

A graduate of the Army's three-year course in aerospace medicine, McNaney wears three hats with the 1st Cav: division surgeon, chief flight surgeon and

commander of the 15th Medical Battalion. He monitors MEDEVAC calls from his office across the street from the MEDEVAC pad in Phuoc Vinh.

"If one of our birds goes down, I'm on the rescue ship," he said. "I feel I owe it to the men in the battalion."

Medics Save Youth's Foot After Mother's Folk Cures Fail

XOM TAM (USA) — Recently Xom Tam was visited by a small 14-year-old boy named Ngo Van Van. Ngo had cut his heel on a broken bottle and the cut was extremely deep. Ngo's mother had treated the injury by washing it in creek water and applying leaves to protect the wound.

Repeated application of the ancient treatment didn't help. The injury continued to worsen. Ngo's mother was beside herself with worry. The heel began to turn purple and fluid drained from under the protective palm leaves.

Knowing GIs would be sympathetic, Ngo's mother dropped him off at the gate of Xom Tam quarry. Specialist 5 Michael

Hayden of Fulton, N.Y., a medic from the 20th Engineer Brigade's Company C, 92nd Engineers Battalion, said it looked like an amputation case. He proceeded to clean the wound and administer a tetanus shot.

The interpreter at Xom Tam took Ngo to the Buddhist orphanage at Tran Ban where he and his mother live. There he obtained permission to take Ngo to the 92nd Battalion aid station at Long Binh. Ngo's infection was again cleaned and dressed and he was sent back to Xom Tam with instructions to report to the dispensary every day until treatment was no longer required.

Like a trooper, Ngo shows up every day. His progress is reflected in his face, and in the faces of the soldiers at Xom Tam as well.

'Innocent' Trucks Yield Surprises

FSB NANCY (USA) — A truck stopped by the side of the road — sounds pretty innocent doesn't it? Happens all the time, you say?

Yes, it does, but to the 199th Light Infantry Brigade's 4th Battalion, 12th Infantry the situation is by no means innocent.

Recently, the Battalion with the help of local National Policemen, has been checking traffic in the Dinh Quan area northeast of Xuan Loc and coming up with some interesting and fruitful discoveries.

Highway 20, stretching from one end of Dinh Quan District to the other, has been the primary objective of the battalion's Population and Resource Control Plan.

"The highway is probably one of the enemy's essential supply routes in Long Khanh Province," explained First Lieutenant Frederick Rovner of Woodlawn Hills, Calif. Rovner is intelligence officer for the 4th Battalion.

Together with two National Policemen, a Kit Carson Scout, an interpreter and his intelligence NCO, Sergeant First Class Walden Wagner, Rovner "patrolled" Highway 20 both on the ground and from the air in an effort to stop some of this enemy activity.

The Population and Resources Control team, for example, became suspicious of a stopped logging truck recently while checking the road from a Huey helicopter.

"It was pulled off to the side of the road and just sitting there as if abandoned," Rovner explained, "so we flew down to investigate."

Once on the ground the team searched the truck completely.

"Although there were no signs of contraband, there were no signs that the truck had been used for logging either," Rovner recalled.

Still suspicious, the team continued to pry and finally found a man hiding in the bush of the road.

"He couldn't explain himself and he carried no I.D. card, so National Police detained him for further questioning," Rovner said.

The long range goal of the

Population and Resources Control Plan is, according to Rovner, "to establish a more active police force patrolling the Dinh Quan area, thereby insuring the defeat of the Viet Cong infrastructure within the villages."

The VC have been operating in the open on Highway 20 in the past because there was never any threat of their being stopped and searched.

Through these combined operations, "Warriors" of the 4th Battalion are hitting Charlie where it hurts. Because of these efforts this particular supply route cannot help but cause the enemy to suffer from it.

Kids Like Saigon Outing

SAIGON (USA) — To a child who has never been more than a few miles from the village of his birth, visit to the capital city of Saigon is an unforgettable experience.

Each Sunday, a rented bus winds its way south from villages in the Lai Khe area on an all-day outing that is a gift of experience from American friends. The program is run by the Civil Affairs' Pacification Section of the 4th Squadron, 4th Cavalry, a unit of the 1st Infantry Division.

Recently 50 school children and their teachers from Ben Cat School had the opportunity to see the sights of the city. Little eyes opened wide as they took in such things as stop lights, traffic jams and modern architecture for the first time. The first stop was a tour of the tomb and temple of Marshal Le-Van-Duyet, a national hero, who is buried with his wife and horse.

Next, the sightseers rode through the city, peering through the windows of their magic bus at the Presidential Palace and the American Embassy. They also saw the hustle and bustle of the Saigon market and dock area.

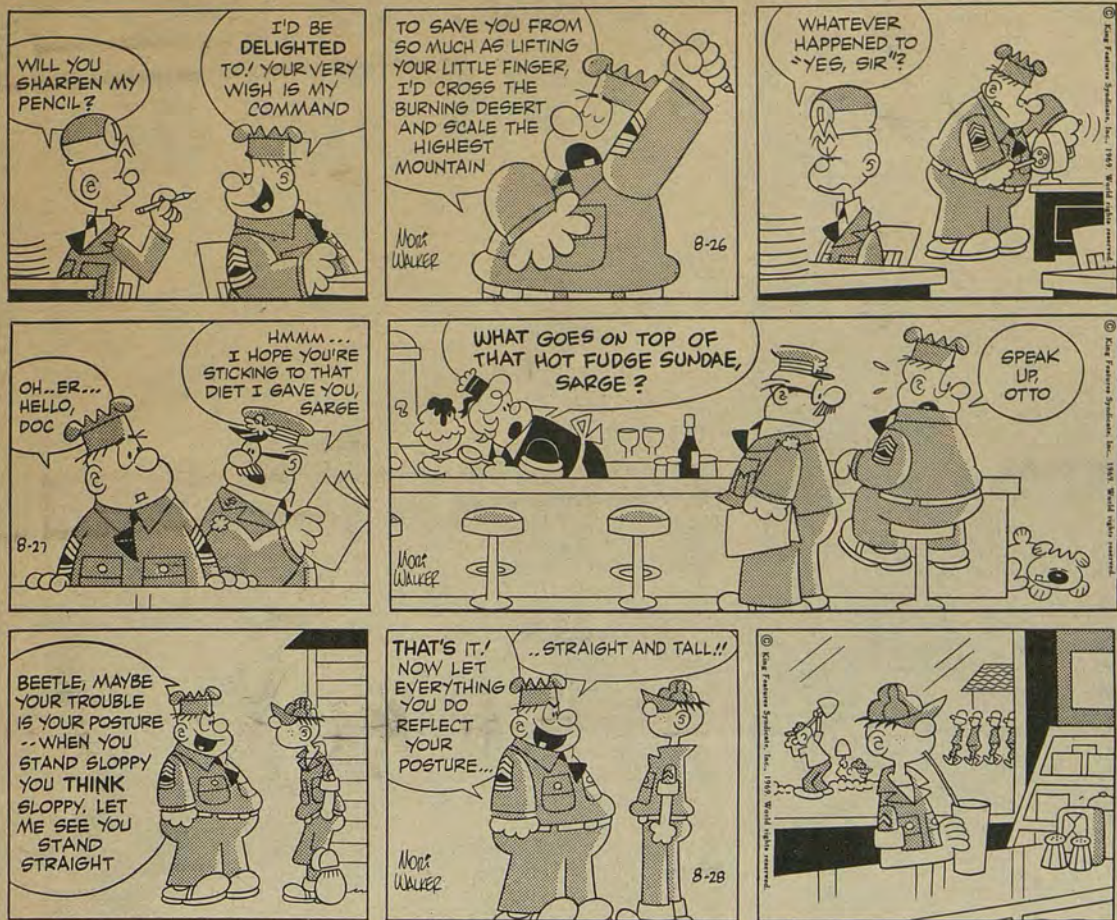
The high point of the visit was the Saigon Zoo, a beautiful park and exhibition of plant and animal life. Lunch was provided by the Quarter Cav, and everyone spent a leisurely afternoon discovering and learning. Later in the day, a tired but happy busload made the return trip to Ben Cat, their world widened and curiosity aroused.



BUNKER BUNNY OF THE WEEK—sez, "I like to dress as comfortable as I can and I love to buy clothes. While I was out shopping today I asked a salesgirl what she suggested for travel by air. She said 'A Plane' — well that makes sense, but I was speaking of clothes and she told me that if I was in the military going to or coming from Vietnam on a military or MAC charter flight I could wear a tropical combat uniform which has been approved for wear on such flights. Well, this shift might not meet this criteria, but it should stir up some excitement around here. Do you approve?" (PHOTO By: Thomas Tynes)

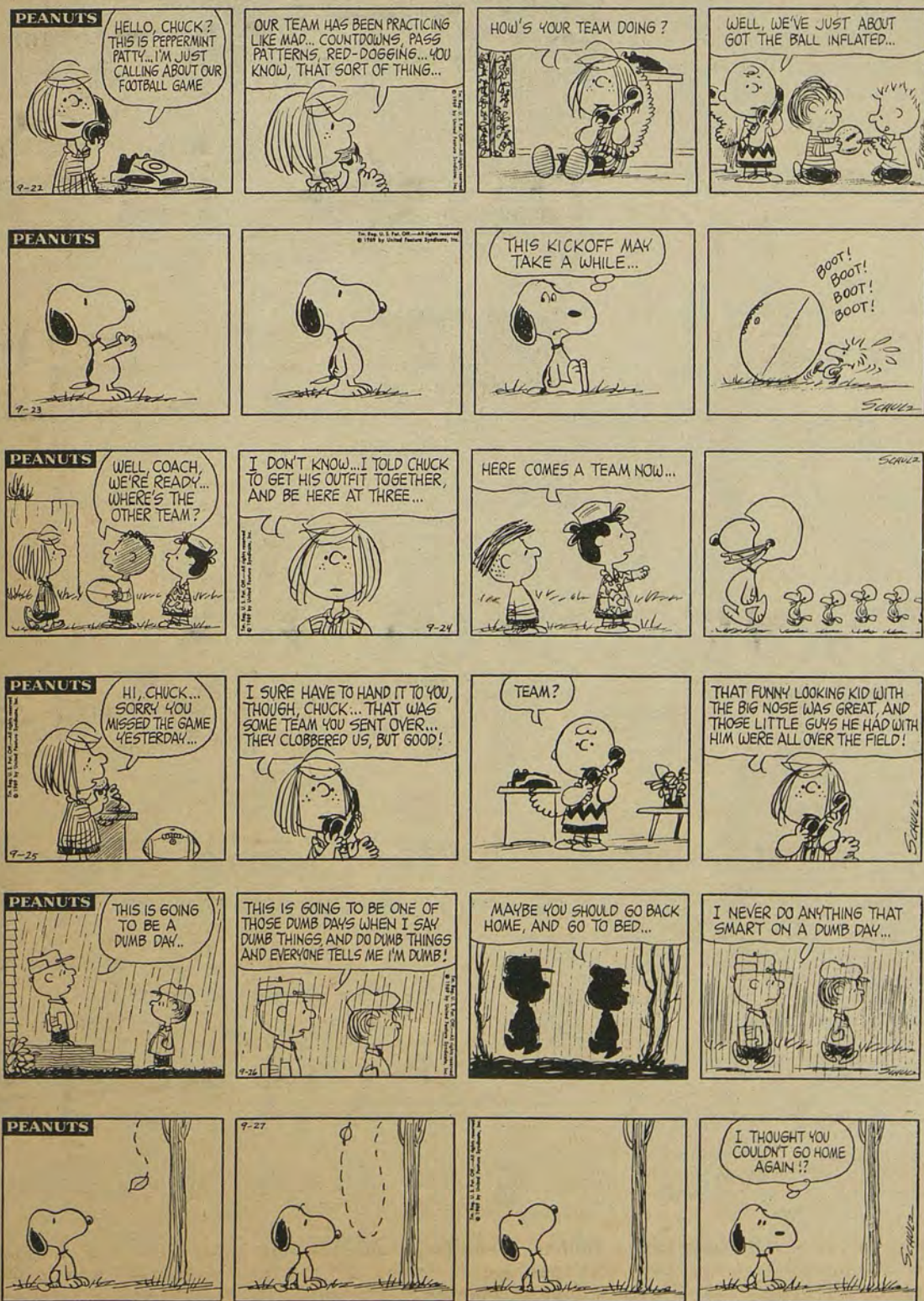
Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz



More destructive fires are started in U.S. installations in RVN by carelessness than by enemy action. Main areas of concern are: Improper use of inflammable materials for cleaning agents, improper storage of fuel and chemicals, smoking in unauthorized areas, improper vehicle maintenance, and frayed, defective or overloaded electrical equipment. Don't give Charlie a helping hand by not observing fire safety. Now see if you can find the 10 differences in these drawings.



SOLUTION: (1&2) Shape of smoke on left and right of top man's back altered. (3) Neck of tee shirt on top man altered. (4) Position of top man's knees different. (5) Shape of smoke under top bunk changed. (6) Flame missing. (7) Cross bar on bottom bunk missing. (8) Left foot of bed line missing. (9) Shape of bottom blanket changed. (10) Shape of top man's back altered.



READY FOR ACTION—With their weapons at the ready, Kit Carson Scout Hoa (left) and Private First Class Ion W. Herbst of Blackfoot, Iowa, investigate a large enemy bunker. The 101st Airborne Division troops, members of Company D, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry, were taking part in a joint U.S.—ARVN operation southwest of Camp Eagle.

(USA PHOTO By: SP4 Mike Hinsley)

Charlie Loses More Supplies

Search Reveals Basecamps

LZ FAT CITY (USA) — Searching an area southwest of Chu Lai, infantrymen of the Americal Division's 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry recently uncovered a series of enemy base camps, hospital facilities and resupply stations.

Company D was first helicoptered into the rugged mountain area after Company E's recon platoon reported suspected enemy sites in the area.

After three days of climbing up and sliding down the steep mountains that make up the area, pointmen of the 3rd Platoon spotted two elevated bamboo aqueducts carrying water from a mountain stream into the nearby jungle.

"The first aqueducts ran about 550 yards to a large 20-by-50 foot bamboo and thatch structure used as a hospital, with another hut close by serving as liv-

ing quarters. The second aqueduct continued on into the jungle for about another quarter-mile to another similar setup," said First Lieutenant Charles J. Gantner of Piscataway, N.J., the platoon leader.

In addition to the structures making up the hospital complex, there were several livestock pens holding 50 pigs and 45 to 50 chickens.

Further search of the area uncovered a well-stocked supply station. A concealed "hootch" was found to contain a ton of corn, 500 pounds of salt, 20 pounds of tobacco, more than 400 rounds of small arms ammunition, and articles of clothing.

In an area four miles away the Company E recon platoon uncovered yet another enemy complex containing a large structure, bunkers and numerous livestock pens.

Although enemy contact was scarce, battalion officials expressed satisfaction with the results of the mountain operations.

"Anything we can do to destroy the enemy's existing facilities and disrupt his resupply activities requires him to devote precious man-hours to rebuilding them, thus weakening his ability to fight," explained Major W.L. Lee of De Ridder, La., battalion operations officer.

'Peanuts' Anyone?

SAIGON (MACV) — Do you see yourself as a Charlie Brown, a Linus, a Lucy, or (good grief!) a Snoopy? Well, if you do, here comes your chance to do your thing.

Armed Forces Theatre Vietnam has announced plans for its first production, "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," together with a slate of touring plays to follow.

Headed by Stephen Pokart, professional director and newly assigned entertainment director at Long Binh Post, Armed Forces Theatre Vietnam will have as its debut the world's first overseas production of "Charlie Brown," and it's now in the process of casting.

Members of the military throughout Vietnam wishing to audition for acting roles in this production and subsequent productions are requested to get in touch with Pokart at the Special Services Office at Long Binh Post, APO 96491. The telephone number is 926-4950 or 926-6348.

Plans call for a three-week rehearsal period at Long Binh, a week spent touring the Post, and

DA NANG (USMC) — The North Vietnamese force (NVA), having surrounded an eight-man Marine reconnaissance team, thought they would finally be able to capture one of the elusive teams. But, they neglected to include Marine firepower and a determined helicopter crew in their thinking.

Having encountered an unknown-size enemy force, the recon team from the 1st Reconnaissance Battalion became surrounded and pinned down by intense enemy ground fire. Up against a numerically superior force, the team leader put out a call for an emergency extraction from the area.

Upon receiving the call, two CH-46 helicopters from the 263rd Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron, led by First Lieutenant John J. McNamara of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., were diverted to the site.

"In contact with two escorting UH-1E gunships," said McNamara, we learned that the proposed landing zone in a ravine was entirely unsuitable for us to set down in. And, because of the clinging enemy force, the recon team was unable to change its position."

Realizing that the only alternative was to attempt a ladder extraction, they made a quick stop at An Hoa to pick-up a 100-foot ladder needed for the rescue.

Returning to the area, they learned that the team was still surrounded and taking consistent fire, with some of the enemy spotted within 30 yards of its position.

Circling over the area, the rescue ship waited while a flight of A-4 Skyhawk jets pounded the enemy positions.

Fully realizing that an immediate extraction was needed if the team was to be saved, the helicopter, along with supporting gunships, headed into the zone to attempt the pick-up.

Holding the high hover necessary for a ladder extraction, McNamara's craft became an exposed target for enemy gunners, but the covering fire provided by the gunships held ene-

my fire to a minimum, giving the crew the precious time they needed.

Four minutes later the last member of the recon team made it on the ladder. With everyone dangling 80 feet below, they began to pull up, being exceptionally careful to keep the ladder from tangling in the jungle canopy.

Clearing safely, they proceeded directly to An Hoa where the recon team members were dropped off.

Warriors Destroy Bunkers

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS (USA) — In a recent three-week operation, a company from the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry of the 4th Infantry Division discovered and destroyed 2,060 enemy bunker emplacements in a region six miles southwest of Highlander Heights.

Led by Captain Gary Weber of Fort Worth, Tex., Company D of the Red Warriors initiated their patrol from Landing Zone (LZ) Penny.

"As the company proceeded north of the LZ," explained Weber, "one platoon was sent out to find the bunkers, which were strewn along a river. The emplacements covered an area of about one square mile. Another platoon and Rome Plows came later to destroy them."

The patrol members found themselves operating in extremely difficult terrain; tall elephant grass and other overgrowth turned the region into a jungle maze, but it did not take long for the men to reach the first set of enemy bunkers.

The patrol quickly set out to tear down the emplacements.

Since the beginning of the operation, the patrols had come upon high-speed trails and other signs of recent enemy activity in the area, but never made contact during the operation.

The patrol continued through the green maze and discovered another enemy emplacement along a branch of the Ya Krong Bolah River, just north of LZ Penny.

The sites were basically the same as before, and contained mess halls, sleeping and fighting positions. The entire bunker emplacement was destroyed.

Lightning Strikes...

(Continued From Page 1)

stronghold with devastating 4.2 inch mortar rounds.

After completely saturating the enemy's position, the combined elements of Headquarters Company shifted their fire onto other targets in the vicinity of the cave.

Assessing the situation from the scene of action, Lieutenant Colonel T.G. Smith of El Paso, Tex., the battalion commander, requested a Psyps team from the 1st Brigade S-5 section at Tay Ninh.

By the time the team was in action, the mountain again reverberated, but this time to the

voice of an S-5 interpreter broadcasting over loud speakers.

"We explained the Chieu Hoi policy and urged them to rally to the government," explained Smith. "We told them we would not allow them sanctuary on the mountain or any other place, and what they went through today was just a preview of events to come."

A post-mortem of the day's events revealed a success story of modern psychological warfare techniques. Not only were 30 enemy soldiers killed, but possibly they put questions in the minds of other enemy as to the effectiveness of Nui Ba Den as a sanctuary.

Mail THE OBSERVER Home

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